AMMONITES NEUBERGICUS HAUER, 1858 (CEPHALOPODA, AMMONOIDEA): PROPOSED CONSERVATION BY THE SUPPRESSION OF *AMMONITES CHRISHNA* FORBES, 1846.

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Ammonites neubergicus Hauer, 1858 (p. 12) is the type species by subsequent designation by Grossouvre (1894, p. 177) of the widely distributed Upper Cretaceous ammonite genus *Pachydiscus* Zittel, 1884, p. 466. It is also the index fossil of a widely accepted Maastrichtian ammonite zone (see for example Spath, 1926; Muller & Schenck, 1943; Wright, 1957; Kennedy & Cobban, 1976; and Wiedmann, 1979).

2. The stability of the name is now under threat because our current research has shown that *neubergicus* is a junior subjective synonym of *Ammonites chrishna* Forbes, 1846 (p. 103).

3. Although the name *chrishna* has seldom been employed in the literature, it has been used on at least three occasions in the last thirty years: Collignon, 1955; Atabekian & Akopian, 1969; and Matsumoto *et al.*, 1979.

4. As the type species of the widely distributed and common genus *Pachydiscus*, the species *neubergicus* has been cited in many publications which describe *Pachydiscus* and in a number of compilations of Cretaceous ammonite taxonomy. Additionally, *neubergicus* is a characteristic element of the Cretaceous faunas of Western Europe and is used as a zonal index species of the Lower Maastrichtian Stage. For these reasons, considerable confusion would be caused in both taxonomy and biostratigraphy if the specific name *chrishna* replaced *neubergicus*. No adverse consequences in taxonomy or biostratigraphy would result if *chrishna* were suppressed.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *chrishna* Forbes, 1846, as published in the binomen *Ammonites chrishna,* for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;

(2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the specific name *neubergicus* Hauer, 1858, as published in the binomen *Pachydiscus neubergicus* (specific name of the type species of *Pachydiscus* Zittel, 1884);

(3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the specific name *chrishna* Forbes, 1846, as published in the binomen *Ammonites chrishna,* and as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above.

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